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## Newsletter

**Number 04**

**27 February 2015**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

### Thanks

... to those parents who attended parent interviews this week.  
... to those parents who assisted with this week's headlice inspection.  
... to those who supported our swimming team at the zone Swimming sports at Kokopu School.  
.. to Renee Lee for making the Gala roadside signs and Donna McKenzie for doing an amazing job organising the Gala Kids Zone.

### People of the week

.... Johnathan and Tyrone who rang interview bells on Monday night, Johnathan even offered to do these on the Tuesday as well. You did a great job boys and your service is very much appreciated. Thank you!  
... Our swimmers ... we have had great feedback filtering back to school on your conduct and sportsmanship. Well done!  
... Dylan, Hunter and Hayden for a superb job on the day running Kokopu Schools fund-raiser. This was very much noticed and appreciated boys.  
... Parent helpers for the difference you are already making in classrooms.

### A special congratulations

... to the following former students who achieved academic colours in NCEA: Level 1 - Hayden Clements, Angus Dorahy, Euan Sapwell, Cody Savage, Matthew Smith.  
NCEA Level 1 Endorsement of Excellence - Shawn Christensen, Hayden Sloper, Brady Woolston.  
NCEA Level 2 Endorsement of Excellence - William Dorahy.

### Incredible Years Programme .. for parents of children ages 3-8

Early this week a letter was sent home to those parents who had expressed interest in the above programme. This letter advised that the programme would run in July, probably Tuesdays. Parents were asked to contact Kevin by the end of this week if July might not work for them. As nobody has made contact, we assume that you are all on board and will advise the facilitators on Monday. We will keep you posted as we approach the date. Well done for setting aside the time

### Term calendar

*More to follow as dates come to hand!*

3 March	Junior Swimming Sports (years 1-3)
10 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
12 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
17 March	Year 4-6 Summer Sports Tournament
2 April	Final day of term

### **Junior Swimming Sports 2015 - A Special Invitation**

You are invited to our special junior swimming sports for year 1-3 at 1:45pm on Tuesday 3rd March. Please note this is a different day to the middle and senior swimming sports day.

The main aims for the day are to celebrate improvement, participate and have fun!

## Programme

Swimming races in year groups - these will be held in a relay style - non-competitive fashion.

Year 3 - length swimmers races

Year 3 - width swimmers races

Year 2 - length swimmers races

Year 2 - width swimmers races

Year 1 - width swimmers races

We are looking forward to having lots of fun and to celebrating how much the children have improved in swimming this year. **We look forward to seeing you there!**

### Interschool Swimming Sports

Consent forms were issued today to those children who qualified at the Zone Event. We have a very tight timeframe and will need these back on Monday please. We will organise a team co-ordinator, but it is the responsibility of parents to transport and supervise their own children to/at this event. Any questions to Mrs Sinclair please.

### Triadic Conferences/ Interviews

If you were unable to attend interviews please know that teachers are highly available by appointment.

### Matarau Road

Have you noticed how dense the fog can be on Matarau Road on some mornings? Parents are asked to keep an extra eye out for children on foggy mornings, to stick to the 40 km speed limit past the school, and to turn their lights on please.

### Needing assistance with ipads?

Thank you to those who dropped by to see Mr D to discuss their ipad "challenges". We are here to help where we can and will ensure further opportunities are provided to support you as we move forward.

### Smart Words books and Maths Whizz Subscriptions

Our fault! We realise that our initial payment request notice sent to families seemed to suggest that the Smart Words and Maths Whizz subscriptions were optional. The former pays for a personal copy of the next spelling book for your children which they write in and keep (\$10 for the year), the latter pays for your child's personal annual subscription to Maths Whizz (\$33 annual subscription, around \$300 per child if you register personally).

We are really sorry this was unclear. If you did not pay for these items with your activity fee earlier in the year please forward payment at your convenience. If not sure please don't hesitate to phone the school office.

### Have Fun Learning/Practising Te Reo

On Monday from the 2 March there will be a weekly opportunity to learn, waiata(song), te reo(Maori language) and tikanga(customs). No matter your current level you may attend to begin learning. For those who have knowledge it is an opportunity to develop tuakana- teina relationships - a mentoring role, and to practise speaking te reo. This is available to both the students and their families. Expressions of interest to Sue Abbott via email, [sabbott@matarau.school.nz](mailto:sabbott@matarau.school.nz), on the Matarau Whanau Facebook page, or via the office. The wananga/sessions will run from 3:15 - 4:15pm. Venue to be confirmed next Friday when there has been an indication of numbers attending.

### Public Health Nurse .. forthcoming vaccinations

... Any questions to Mrs Donaldson please.

### International Schools English and Maths Competitions

Consent forms for the above competitions were sent home today. Please give careful thought regarding your child's participation this year. The competition is open to all comers, but there is little point in participating if children are unlikely to complete a MINIMUM of 5 practice tests in the period building up to the test. Last year a significant number of children did few or no practice tests in spite of being issued with these at school and results reflected this. So .. keen to see as many children as possible on-board for these - but only if there is a commitment to do the practice tests.

### **Learning Support Programmes – Mrs Walker, Mrs Comrie**

If you have not yet done so, please ensure set times and places are allocated for home learning and please ensure that all assigned tasks are completed by the next day. Questions please to the relevant teacher.

**Middle School Request** – To commemorate 100 yrs since the ANZAC's landed in Gallipoli, the middle school will be making poppies for art. We would love any red or black fabric, paper, wool or other draft materials. Please drop off to Room 9.

### **In brief ... from last week**

... Countdown cards .. best left at home

... please keep cars moving (safely) through the carpark if dropping off or picking up children

... to check out the senior school camp photos and activities on [seniorschoolcamp2015.blogspot.com](http://seniorschoolcamp2015.blogspot.com)

... pool users, please resist the temptation to supervise other people's children in the pool after school, legal reasons for this.

... remember that younger children dropped at school during school hours may need assistance to open the school gates.

... inhalers need to be left at the school office please (along with all medications)

### **School Gala Day 14 March**

If able to help your child's teacher / class to prepare for the gala day they would be most grateful. Last week's newsletter had a list of specific things teachers would love help with and so please make contact with them if you can.

Please support by spreading the word, volunteering to help on the day (or before) and with donation of items. So ... please pencil in 14 March and plan to be there. Let extended family know and help us to make this an absolutely fun filled day. A reminder that we are receiving (quality) gala items in the hall from 5 March.

### **Home Learning**

Hopefully Home Learning routines are bedding in. Most home learning is around routine (but necessary) skill building, which frees class time for "new learning". Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason, or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

This week's inspection indicated moderate levels of infestation. If you received a letter advising of infestation, or suspected infestation, please treat your child before their return to school. Children will be re-checked in a week. All parents are asked to check their children weekly please and treat promptly in the event of infestation.

### **Lunches**

Our students bring amazing (and very healthy) lunches to school. As you know we do supervise them to make sure they eat a good portion of what you have sent along. Having said this, we do not require children to finish every item in their lunchbox. If you have checked their lunchbox and would like them to eat a little more, just let us know and we will do our best. We try to ensure that packaged treats are left until last but this can be a bit of a mission sometimes.

### **Consultation on the Health Curriculum**

Schools are required to consult with their community on the delivery of the Health Curriculum. In a forthcoming newsletter we will share key elements of our approach with you. So watch this space.

### **Disagreements between students**

Disagreements between students happen just as disagreements between siblings happen. Disagreements are a normal part of being socialised ... i.e. learning that when we share spaces with others there are inevitably trade-offs (or put another way, we may not always get exactly what we want). It is part of learning to see things another's way, learning to compromise, to accommodate (and respect) different viewpoints and to give or take a little. This does not come naturally ... it is something we learn.

So ... If your child is having the occasional disagreement with other children here is our advice ..

.. give it time (sometimes issues that loom large today are gone in a day or three ... children can be incredibly adept at sorting some things out themselves)

.. if the situation is not improving ask your child to see their teacher

.. if they are reluctant to do this, give your child's teacher a call and we will help things along  
.. know that your information will always be incomplete and that we can complete the picture  
.. trust us because we are impartial (all children are of equal value to us) and we have huge experience in such matters. We monitor and stay interested.

Please remember ..

.. that parents must never step in to sort another person's child because of an assumed wrong to their child ... in some cases it is illegal to do this, and it nearly always makes things worse.

.. The old sayings that "it takes two", "there are two sides to the story" etc endure because there is usually (although not always) some truth in them.

Most of all, remember that **occasional** disagreements happen ... this is how children develop character. Perhaps we should celebrate the fact that disagreements happen because they can provide us with some of life's best lessons. (*Note : these comments do not address the issue of bullying .. bullying is different .. a few thoughts on that next week*).

### **Finally**

In the week beginning 16 March Matarau School (and especially rooms 9 and 10) will host two special visitors from Japan. These visitors will work with room 9 and 10 children on an art / social studies / cultural project titled "If the World was a Village of 100 People". Sometime in the second week of their visit we will arrange an exhibition of the children's work. So .. watch this space!

(There is a chance that the Leader or Report may do an article on this project. Parents of children in rooms 9 and 10 are asked to contact Kevin next week if they do not want their child's photograph published in either of these newspapers).

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

**Earle Tito  
Engineering  
Ltd**

**Gala/Fair request** - If anyone can help with face painting for an hour or so on Saturday morning please email Donna at [donna@digitype.co.nz](mailto:donna@digitype.co.nz).

**For Sale** - Fundraising chocolate (expired) \$1/bar or \$10 /box and Recipe Fundraiser Books - \$20 each

### **Community Notices**

**For Sale** – Sectional Garage doors x 2 – Green colour steel with Merlin Prolift 230T Overhead door openers 2.870wx 2.100L, \$1000 ono each. Ph Colin on 0220896743

Kamo Junior Rugby is looking forward to the 2015 season and is looking for all existing & any new players to register online, [Sportsground.co.nz](http://Sportsground.co.nz)/kamorsc/Kamo Rugby & Squash Club/2015 NZRU Registration Form – then fill in this registration form or at the club day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. You will be contacted by your coach on the week of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March. The first game is 2<sup>nd</sup> of May with the final game on the 29<sup>th</sup> August (16 games). For more info please txt Murray Mortimer on 029 7525970

**Elite Dance Academy** – All dance styles taught, Tuesdays at Kamo Bowling Club, For more info contact SJ on 0210752822 or [elitedanceacademy21@gmail.com](mailto:elitedanceacademy21@gmail.com)

### **Community Education - Whangarei**

**Course Name:** Help Your Child to Learn    **Course Price:** FREE    **Course Date:** Starts Tuesday 3 March

**Course Description:** Is your child struggling to learn? Having difficulty at school? Want some helpful strategies to assist your child? The way your child learns best depends on many factors including age, learning style and personality. This short course gives a general overview of how children learn and what can prevent academic/school learning from being straightforward. The course will be facilitated by an experienced tutor and will include hand-outs plus hands-on activities to strengthen reading, writing and maths skills. Learn ways to provide support at home including games to make learning fun. Suitable for parents/caregivers with children aged from 7 - 11 years. Join this course today and help your child to learn!

**Tutor:** Sheryn Comrie    **Course Length:** 3 weeks    **Course Time:** 6.30-8.30pm

### **BJ's Homebased Childcare Services** are looking for

- Educators to work with and care for children in their home.    - Children to be placed in Homebased care.

The benefits of Homebased care offers

- Quality teacher/child ratio of 1:4
- Locations to suit your needs throughout Northland
- Continual guidance and support from registered teachers
- Planned weekly outings and social events.
- Educational learning in a homely environment that meets all ministry regulations,
- Through BJ's parents can access WINZ subsidy, ECE payments, and a 3-5 yrs school readiness programme - Magic Caterpillar.